

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, July 12, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

**Present:**

Jim Dokken	Chair
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

**Others present:** Mayor Frank Yanish, Building Official Randy Kardell, Steve Renquist – EDC Director

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

**2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION UPDATES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Steve Renquist, EDC Director, presented information about the EDC 5-year goals and work program (see Attachment A). Also included in the presentation was a recap of EDC committee activities. Information on accomplishments was highlighted in the report.

Mr. Renquist also provided updates on the growth of several local manufacturers. He noted a lack of available industrial buildings.

**3. 2011 – 2012 CONSTRUCTION REVIEW (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Building Official Randy Kardell presented a comparison of January through June construction data for the years 2011 and 2012 (see Attachment B). It was noted that the total number of permits in 2012 was up slightly, but the total construction value was up significantly over 2011. The Committee requested year-end information for 2008 through 2011 so a longer term comparison can be drawn on construction activities (see Attachment C).

**4. 201 HAVANA STREET STATUS UPDATE (MOTION)**

Staff reported on recent court action that allows the City to demolish the house at 201 Havana Street NE. The owner and mortgage company did not appear at the hearing and the City was granted its request for demolition effective July 1, 2012. After assembling costs to have the house demolished and the basement backfilled, it was the recommendation of staff that the Fire Department burn the house as a training exercise. Doing so would come at significant savings to the City. The Committee was reminded that the City is responsible for paying the costs of demolition.

and will have to seek reimbursement from the owner or mortgage holder. It is more likely that the costs will be added to the tax bill as an assessment to the property.

Following a discussion a motion was made by Council member Christianson, seconded by Council member Ahmann and passed for the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** To allow the Fire Department to burn the house as a training exercise.

**5. PROJECT UPDATES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Staff presented a list of departmental activities and construction projects that are underway or are about to begin in the City (see Attachment D).

**6. MISCELLANY (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Council member Ahmann inquired about the marketing of Garfield and Lincoln Schools for economic development purposes. Mayor Yanish raised the subject of hiring a City Health Inspector due to complaints about restaurant inspections. It was explained that the County licenses eating establishments and that annual inspections are required and conducted by the County.

7. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development Services